

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /125 W

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P R 211715Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2200

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MESSAGE TO SOUTH AFRICA

REFS: (A) USUN 3234, (B) STATE 211445

IN A BRIEF MEETING OF THE PRETORIA FIVE THIS MORNING, IT WAS AGREED THAT GERMAN AMBASSADOR EICK AND I WOULD DELIVER THE MESSAGE IN REFTELS, SLIGHTLY AMENDED, TO BRAND FOURIE. FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT WHICH WE SHARED WITH OUR COLLEAGUES AFTER SEEING FOURIE:

1. FRG AND US AMBASSADORS SAW FOURIE AND VAN HEERDEN AT 4 P.M. FOR 20 MINUTES AND DELIVERED THE MESSAGE OF THE FIVE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT OUR FIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO WELCOME TO NAMIBIA THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED NATIONS MISSION LED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR.AHTISAARI, AND THE FULL COOPERATION WHICH IS BEING EXTENDED TO THEM BY THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AND BY HIS SERVICES. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THEY WILL LEAD IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED PROPOSAL.

OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO TAKEN NOTE WITH CONCERN OF THE

REPORTS OF A NUMBER OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS THAT ARE SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT DAYS IN THE NORTH OF NAMIBIA. WHILE IN A FORMAL SENSE A CEASEFIRE IS NOT CALLED FOR UNDER THE WESTERN PROPOSAL UNTIL THE PASSAGE OF A FURTHER RESOLUTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, OUR GOVERNMENTS DEEPLY DEPLORE ANY SUCH INCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. WE WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION, IN THIS CONTEXT, THE CALL FOR GENERAL RESTRAINT MADE ON AUGUST 16 BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS CALL AND WE, OURSELVES, ARE ISSUING A SIMILAR APPEAL TO SWAPO AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. ANY ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE, THROUGH INITIATION OF HOSTILE ACTS OR RETALIATION, CAN ONLY PUT IN JEOPARDY THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS FOR WHICH WE HAVE ALL WORKED SO LONG AND WHICH, THROUGH YOUR COOPERATION, WE ARE CONFIDENT IN ACHIEVING. END TEXT.

2. FOURIE NOTED THE WORDS "INITIATION" AND "RETALIATION" IN CONNECTION WITH HOSTILE ACTS AND ASKED WHETHER WE EXPECTED THE SAG NOT TO REACT TO SWAPO ATTACKS OF VIOLENCE. HE SAID THE MILITARY ARE FED UP WITH REPEATED ATTACKS FROM BEYOND THE BORDER. WE RESPONDED THAT WE WERE MAKING AN IMPARTIAL APPEAL TO ALL PARTIES AND THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO EXERCISE UTMOST RESTRAINT DURING THE CRUCIAL PERIOD THAT LIES AHEAD OF US. ALTHOUGH HE PUT SOME EMPHASIS ON THE OBJECTION P.W. BOTHA WOULD HAVE TO OUR REQUEST THAT THERE BE NO RETALIATION, WE HAD THE FEELING THAT HE WAS MAKING A POINT

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PRIMARILY FOR THE RECORD.

3. WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR ENCOURAGEMENT AT THE WAY THINGS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN GOING IN WINDHOEK. HE RESPONDED THAT THERE COULD STILL BE SERIOUS PROBLEMS AHEAD, DEPENDING ON AHTISAARI'S APPROACH TO CERTAIN KEY QUESTIONS. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE INDICATION THAT AHTISAARI WOULD NOT SCRAP THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS ENTIRELY, BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD HAVE MEANT THAT THE SAG COULD NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE NUMBER AND COMPOSITION OF THE UN MILITARY CONTINGENT BEFORE THE SAG COULD PERMIT ITS ENTRY INTO THE TERRITORY. HE SAID IT WOULD NOT WORK TO HAVE SOME TROOPS IN PLACE AND THEN HAVE THE UN DETERMINE THAT ADDITIONAL FORCES WOULD BE REQUIRED. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO, HE IMPLIED THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TROOPS. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE SAG WOULD EXPECT THESE QUESTIONS TO BE CLEARED UP BEFORE IT COULD ACCEPT A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSAL.

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